

AmeriCorps Funding Crisis – Bulletin #4, July 3, 2003

The National News

- The U.S. Senate and House are currently on July 4th recess. Senators and members of Congress are usually active in their home districts at this time. Both the Senate and the House will reconvene on Monday, July 7th.
- Both the U.S. Senate and House have targeted October 3rd as their adjournment date for the current year.

The Statewide News

- The Michigan Public Policy Institute, a program of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, has information available on their web site at <http://www.mnaonline.org/ameriCorps.htm>. Or for more information, contact Erin Skene at skeneeri@mnaonline.org.
- *In the news. . .*
 - July 2nd The Lansing State Journal ran a story. [Click here](#) to view.
 - June 27th First Gentleman Dan Mulhern, MCSC Chair, had an Op-Ed in the Detroit News. [Click here](#) to view the article. Also on the 27th the Ann Arbor News ran two stories. Click on the articles to view them. [Article #1](#) and [Article #2](#)
- Find out how the AmeriCorps funds will impact Michigan's communities. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Local Stories

Here are a few of the thoughts we have been receiving from those getting the AmeriCorps Funding Crisis Bulletins:

Medgar L. Clark - Detroit

"I am highly concerned about the (AmeriCorps) budget cuts. I applied last November just before that freeze. As a disabled volunteer, I have volunteered locally, but AmeriCorps would allow me to serve my community on a national basis since I did not serve my country through military service."

Andrew W. Grosvenor - Ishpeming

"A great program has gone from 'getting things done for America' to simply done. . . This is truly a tragedy.

Since beginning my volunteer service at Ishpeming Public Schools through the Marquette-Alger RESA AmeriCorps Program, I have assisted in the maintenance and upgrade of the school district's network of some 500 computers. . .I also had chances to assist in educational situations imbedded with technology, from clay animation to video documentaries to digital broadcasting. . .

While providing technical assistance, I have gained a great deal of professional experience. . . Recently, I have interviewed with several schools, as I pursue a career in education. All of the prospective employers were interested in my technical experience. . .I am very proud to report that my AmeriCorps experience helped me obtain a teaching position in the Lansing area. With my technical skills, I received a significant pay increase, greater responsibility, and an opportunity for future advancement. Thank you AmeriCorps and Ishpeming Public Schools. I am eternally grateful!"

Are you concerned about the AmeriCorps funding cuts? Please tell us your story. Send an email message to MCSC-News@michigan.gov.

Background Information

Three issues are impacting Michigan's AmeriCorps programs:

1. Michigan's AmeriCorps program funding is being cut from \$6.2 million to \$900,000.
2. The balance in the Education Award Trust will not support President Bush's call for 75,000 members.
3. A cap has been placed on the number of AmeriCorps members who can enroll nationwide.

These issues are a result of accountability gaps on the part of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps funding, and the subsequent response of the U.S. Congress.